

Press Comment

RURAL SCHOOLS IN NEW YORK

The Empire State Has Similar Troubles as Vermont. Dorothy Canfield Fisher Is Being Quoted There.

The New York is a great, rich state, but it has its rural school problems the same as "little Vermont."

It is not the city and big town schools, it is the rural schools. Several editors over there have read with evident approval, Mrs. Fisher's articles, printed in this and other papers in Vermont.

We quoted from one recently. Here is another from the St. Lawrence Plaindealer that has not only printed these articles but urged the legislators at Albany to heed them.

The editor says: "I wonder if they have read these articles and applied them to rural schools here? She wrote with a wonderful clear vision of rural problems. Vermont's Board has also a clear vision of the needs of the rural schools, and how to awaken interest in them. The new movement in Vermont, centers around making these rural schools community centers, making the buildings comfortable; a pride to the districts and everybody interested in their own school."

"They know of community gatherings to care for cemeteries, of the way in which our granges watch other granges. Rural people are a proud people. None are prouder. They have another characteristic: they do not want to be dictated to or driven. That is one reason why country schools have not progressed."

"When the farmer believes he has reason to think that some autocratic educational body proposes to make school laws that he believes unreasonable and silly, that he must live up to, he gets stubborn."

"You can't drive the farmer. Nature drives him morning, noon and night, and he wants to be occasionally a free agent."

"But do not forget that the farmer is a proud man. Mrs. Fisher strikes the keynote in her story of Vermont's schools, because she is relying on Vermont's pride."

"Vermont is going to put a sign on every 'standard' school in the state that is up to standard. She may yet go farther and put the rating on the front of every school that is below 'standard' for the world to see. Her standard school is not going to be a perfect school, but a possible school, a school that the citizens of that district can make possible at the cost of a little personal hustle, prompted by the better rating card on the schoolhouse in the next district. I quote from Mrs. Fisher:

"There are no fussy expensive requirements such as would be hard to meet in country schools, no mention of running water, or furnace heat, or sidewalk trimmings in teaching, or anything nicker-plated, cified or ultramodern; just an enumeration of the things that any country school in America ought to have to be decent, clean, reasonably attractive and efficient, to give children a good ordinary primary training, such as enough light for the children to see their work, a floor that can be kept clean, a stove that gives the right heat, decent out-buildings, sanitary drinking arrangements, enough textbooks to go around, plain, comfortable seating arrangements for teacher and pupils, a clock, some soap, a basin for washing hands and faces, a decently-paid teacher who is trained for work and cares about it and stays on her job, a community which sees to it that the teacher has a fairly comfortable place to live, pupils who go regularly to school when not sick, an American flag outside and inside the building, some interest taken in the school by the parents of the children, etc., etc."

"What would happen in this state if this method was adopted instead of issuing mandates and laws from Albany? I might point out that it would create a demand for better teachers, for better everything; that it would create community pride in the school, the sort of pride we find in competing granges. It would create a demand for better school laws. It would get farmers to studying and would create an actual demand for more consolidation so that larger districts might have real

MICKIE SAYS

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schools and better attendance and better teachers.

"I have said since this school discussion began that any real lasting improvement must begin in the rural districts and not through edicts issued at Albany."

"I want to go farther, Albany must show an appreciation, not only of the physical conditions obtaining in the country, but also of other needs."

"When the education department has a separate curriculum for the country, when rural education is measured there not by the superficial cramming necessary to secure the greatest number of regents counts to this teacher or that, but by the thorough implanting in the minds of rural scholars of the knowledge the rural citizen needs in his business, knowledge that will add to the sum of human contentment on the farm, Albany will find it can walk hand in glove with the farmer."

Less Tax and Deficit

Following the action of the voters, Mayor Edward Curtis Smith warns the taxpayers of St. Albans that unless they authorize an increased tax, which was refused at the recent city meeting, the city faces a deficit of \$41,615.

In a statement published by the Messenger, the situation is stated as follows:

"Declaring that until the city decides upon its policy of providing for the deficit in the operation of the city there is no safe or sane course for the council to adopt but to suspend the expenditure of every penny and to conserve the resources of the city to the limit, the members of the city government today gave out a statement on the financial condition of the municipality. As regards an extra tax the statement sets forth that it is 'essential, not only to carry out the provisions of the plan (ten-year plan), but unless it is raised there will be a deficit of \$41,615.50 in the operating expenses of the city for the current year.'"

The Herald particularly agrees with the mayor's conclusion that under the circumstances there is nothing to do but to stop spending money until the city votes more. It is a pity that a similar policy had not been adopted long ago by our representatives in Montpelier."

The city government of St. Albans, fortunately, is headed by a business man, accustomed to do business on the plan of getting your money before you spend it; the state of Vermont, on the other hand, is run on the plan of picking out what things our representatives think we need, then looking around for something to tax."

It is embarrassing, naturally, for the voters to "balk up" on increasing the city tax, but it is a fact, of course, that there is a very decided protest against the present high scale of taxes, local, state and national."

What the people want is not more tax, but less. If we can believe our state officers, the state is also headed for a deficit, yet our only candidate for governor, so far, makes a tax on gasoline a feature of his platform. In other words, while he favors economy in one respect he favors an increased tax on automobile owners."

The Herald does not believe in increasing taxes of any class at this time; it believes in reducing taxes, and it is confirmed in this position by the testimony of thousands of taxpayers who so declared themselves at town meeting and the number who have enrolled themselves into "Economy clubs," without perhaps realizing that they were committing themselves thereby to a gasoline tax."

We have had enough of this business of attempting to shift the burden of taxation from one shoulder to another. What the state and country needs is a taste of the economy that has been forced on the private individual—a horizontal cut in expenses, not an increase in taxes."

The Herald would like to see a state platform for real economy without any saving clause whereby a reduction of the state tax could be offset by a tax on some particular class, such as the owners of automobiles. They are paying their full share of road upkeep now, to say nothing about other taxes.—Rutland Herald.

ELMORE

Wesley Emerson has returned to St. Johnsbury.

Lowa Foss visited her sister, Mrs. Peter Alair, recently.

Elmer Gravelin was in Cambridge recently on business.

Regie Cooper of Massachusetts was in town recently.

Robert St. Jock is carrying on Harry Labare's sugar place.

Mrs. Elwin Robinson, who has been quite ill for a long time, is much improved.

Rudolph Smith visited his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Smith, recently.

Miss Mae Truman was in town Monday of this week to organize a Girls' Sewing Club.

Robert St. Jock has moved his family back to his own place. Mr. St. Jock has sold the Elmore water works to Harvey Gravelin.

Miss Truman gave a salad demonstration at Rena Smith's recently. Two fine salads were made and quickly disposed of by the nine ladies present.

Mrs. William Peo, who has been spending the winter with her son in Waterbury, returned home last week. She was in Elmore a few days on business.

A heavy thunder storm visited Elmore on Tuesday of last week, the water in the lake rising to such an extent that it took out a good share of the bulk head, flooding the meadows below the bridge.

Mrs. William Peo has sold her place to Harvey Gravelin. Mr. Gravelin also has purchased the Carrie Morrison place and has moved his family there.

LOCAL NEWS

MORRISVILLE

Eben Barrows spent the week-end in Johnson with Curtis Young.

Charles Mould was a Burlington visitor Friday night and Saturday.

Mrs. George L. Bates is convalescent after a several days' illness.

Harold Lavarway went Monday to Canton, N. Y., where he has employment.

Mrs. E. E. Schutt, who has been quite ill for the past two weeks, is improving.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Slayton have returned home from a stay with relatives in Boston.

Miss Rebecca Carpenter of the U. V. M. has been spending several days at the H. W. Billings home.

Elroy Bailey went the last of last week to Waterville for a few days' stay with his sister, Mrs. Bassett.

Dr. A. M. Goddard was confined to his home on Bridge street several days the past week from the prevailing distemper.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Greaves and daughter, Madeline, have been spending several days with Mr. Greaves' parents in Walden.

Mrs. L. C. Emmons and daughter, Katrine, spent a few days in Waterbury the past week with their son and brother, Edward Emmons.

Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Morrill and son, Donald, were recent visitors at the home of Mrs. Morrill's sister, Mrs. C. H. Gates, at North Hyde Park.

Miss Sybil Tillotson, a student at People's Academy, is spending her Easter vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Tillotson, at Lowell.

Home and Herbert Smith have deeded the Ellsworth farm in Elmore to Harry Smith. The latter has resided on the farm for several months.

Curtis Young, a student at People's Academy, is spending the Easter vacation at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Young, at Johnson.

Miss Marion Slayton, a student at Bryant & Stratton Business College, Boston, is spending two weeks at the home of her father, Dr. W. T. Slayton.

Rev. V. M. Hardy has been quite ill for several days, suffering from bronchitis. A trained nurse, Miss Stanley of Burlington, is caring for him.

Miss Doris Carpenter, who teaches in Newport, has been spending a two weeks' vacation at the home of her father, J. Carpenter, of Laporte road.

Mrs. Carrie Terrill and Mrs. Edna Skinner went the last of last week to St. Johnsbury for a few days' stay with Mrs. Skinner's daughter, Mrs. Almon Call.

Mrs. W. T. Slayton and son, William, Jr., left the last of last week for a six weeks' stay with Mrs. Slayton's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Myers, of Yakima, Wash.

Miss Beryl Stewart, who is enjoying a two weeks' vacation from her school at Pleasant Valley, has returned home from a week's stay with Mrs. Hugh Carpenter at Waitsfield. Mrs. Carpenter will be pleasantly remembered as Miss Mabel Folsom, a former teacher in the graded school.

The following students from the University of Vermont are spending the Easter vacation at their respective homes: The Misses Merle Smalley, Madeline Gates, Florence Woodard, Frances Farr, Thelma Edmunds and Eleanor Downey; Messrs. James Billings, Harold Gates, Robert Slayton, Earl Slayton, Glendon Goddard and Max Stewart.

P. A. GIRL SHOOT HUSBAND

An Associated Press despatch from Bellows Falls, dated March 31, says: Following an attempt to murder her husband by shooting yesterday, Mrs. L. L. Stearns, a mulatto, jumped from the third story window at her home, 11 Green street, and is at the Rockingham hospital in a serious condition. Mr. Stearns, with a bullet through one lung, is not expected to live.

Mr. and Mrs. Stearns had not lived together for some time and had met at their former home to divide the furniture stored there. About a minute after they entered the house, Mrs. Stearns drew a revolver, shot her husband and threw herself out of the window upon the ice below. It is thought her neck is broken.

The argument over division of the family furniture started at Mr. Stearns' boarding house on Green street, where Mrs. Stearns had awaited her husband. They went together to the house on the corner of Green and Oak streets and to the attic in which their furniture had been stored. Several persons saw Mrs. Stearns jump from the window and they immediately summoned a physician and an ambulance.

Mr. Stearns was employed as boss at the Brigham Company creamery in North Walpole, N. H. He is about 45 years old. Mrs. Stearns is a large, heavy woman several years younger than her husband.

ELMORE

Peter Millard visited in Morrisville Sunday.

Mrs. Harry Smith is ill at this writing.

See page 3 for items too late for last week.

Wesley Emerson has gone to Johnson to work.

Harry Labare is moving into the house vacated by Harvey Gravelin.

Mrs. Gertrude St. Jock and son visited at Hermie Lamphere's Sunday.

Mrs. Walter Decell of Morrisville is spending a few days with her sister, Mrs. Richard Woolcutt.

Miss Mae Truman and Miss Luce were in Elmore Monday to organize a Girls' Sewing Club.

Mrs. Helen Hall was appointed leader, Helen Vosberg president, Beulah Gravelin vice president and Joyce Woolcutt secretary and treasurer.

Mrs. Stanley, Mrs. Gravelin and Mrs. St. Jock were appointed assistants for the leader.

STOWE

Mrs. Kate Stone of Boston is visiting her daughter, Mrs. C. O. Burt.

Miss Myra Herrick of Morrisville was a guest at O. S. Smith's last week.

Mrs. W. B. Macutchan is at the Mary Fletcher hospital for treatment.

Mrs. E. K. Seaver of Cady's Falls visited her sister, Mrs. G. M. Towne, last week.

Eleven out of 19 pupils on West Hill school had the whooping cough last week.

Mrs. Mildred Russ and Mrs. E. B. Forbes of Moscow were in Burlington last week.

Kathleen, Bessie and Ray Foster are confined to the house with the whooping cough.

Miss Lois McCuen passed a few days recently at the Marston Brothers' farm in Sterling.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Burt of Burlington have been guests at J. M. Ruiter's for several days.

The Triangle Community Club had a sugar social at the Community Church one evening last week.

There was a meeting of the St. John's Episcopal Mission at the banquet hall last Sunday evening.

Mrs. Charles Brough, who has returned from Bethel, is now caring for Mrs. A. M. Wood, who is in poor health.

The Bridge Street Community Club will hold a food sale at the Community Church on Saturday afternoon of this week.

Mrs. Howard Clark and daughter and son, Emily and Marshall, of Addison were recent guests of Mrs. Ewitt Simineau.

Mrs. Charles Brough has returned from Bethel, where she was called by the illness of her mother, who remains in poor health.

Mrs. John Cushman of Florence, Mass., and Mrs. Charles Vetterling of Northampton are guests at H. A. Foster's during sugaring.

Miss Laura Wright of Essex passed Thursday and Friday with her sister-in-law, Mrs. E. E. Wright, and family at A. R. Straw's.

Mrs. Ida Wheeler and daughter, Miss Marion Benson of Morrisville, returned Thursday after visiting at the home of her nephew, H. R. Lang.

K. J. Kirk of the Washington County Farm Bureau Association and Lamolille County Agent W. D. Jones of Morrisville were business visitors here Thursday.

Mrs. Robert Gilchrist returned Thursday with her six-year-old son who has received treatment at the Fanny Allen hospital for a diseased bone in one knee.

The Misses Sleeper, Morgan, Barrows and Messrs. Boardman, Barrows and Sleeper of the U. V. M., and Mrs. H. W. Barrows are passing their Easter vacation in Stowe.

Mrs. H. E. Pike, Mrs. H. C. McMahon and son, Carlyle, were in Burlington Thursday, where Mrs. McMahon had X-ray pictures taken of Carlyle's leg and hip that have been troubling him for some time.

Mrs. Alma Smith and son, D. R. Smith, and daughter, Mrs. H. E. Jenney, went Thursday to attend the funeral in East Barre of Mrs. Smith's sister-in-law, Mrs. Mary Paine. Mrs. Smith will go on to Washington to visit relatives.

Frank Gale received news last week from his brother, Dan Gale, of Grand Haven, Mich., formerly of Stowe, that his business block was recently burned. It consisted of a china store, theatre and a tenement. The origin of the fire is not known, but it was thought that it was set. The loss of the building was estimated at \$12,000 and over.

The program carried out by the Ever-Ready Community Club at its social last week included music by Shackett's orchestra, composed of Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Shackett and W. L. Bennett; recitations by Mrs. Laura Robinson, Mrs. Mertie Barrows and Donna Oakes; violin solo by Hortense Shackett; song, Donald Douglass; song and dance, "Grandmother's Day," by eight children; three farces, "The Anti-Germ Society," "Lunatic or Professor?" and "Aunt Jerusha and Uncle Josh Visit School," by 16 children; song by Clara and Pearl Shepard; and song by Viola and Bernice Smith and Doris Shepardson. Lunch boxes for two were sold and also candy. There was a good attendance and all had a good time. The receipts of the evening were \$25.

STOWE INN SOLD

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Burt of Burlington have sold the Green Mountain Inn to James H. Wright and Mrs. Gladys F. Harmon of Greenfield, Mass., who took possession April 1.

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Webster, who have conducted the hotel for the past two and one-half years, are planning to return to their home at Waterbury Center. Mr. and Mrs. Webster have made a remarkable success of the Green Mountain Inn since they have managed it for a syndicate of business men, who hired them to reopen and run the Inn some three years ago. The new proprietors come highly recommended and everyone wishes them success.

WATERVILLE

O. G. Kelley was ill with the grip last week.

Miss Doris Notemyer of Johnson is visiting in town.

The Misses Muriel and Opal Burt visited in Sheldon recently.

Mr. and Mrs. William Bennett were in Fletcher one day last week.

Mrs. Lela Constantine of Burlington is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. O. G. Kelley.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Jackson visited her son, Allison Wells, in St. Johnsbury recently.

Mrs. Lizzie Currier, who spent the winter with her son, P. F. Fletcher, in Cambridge, returned home last week.

Mr. and Mrs. William Robinson of Burlington were the guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Schofield, one day last week.

Mrs. Anna Beard returned home from Boston Saturday night, accompanied by her son, Winfred, who has been very ill of pneumonia.

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